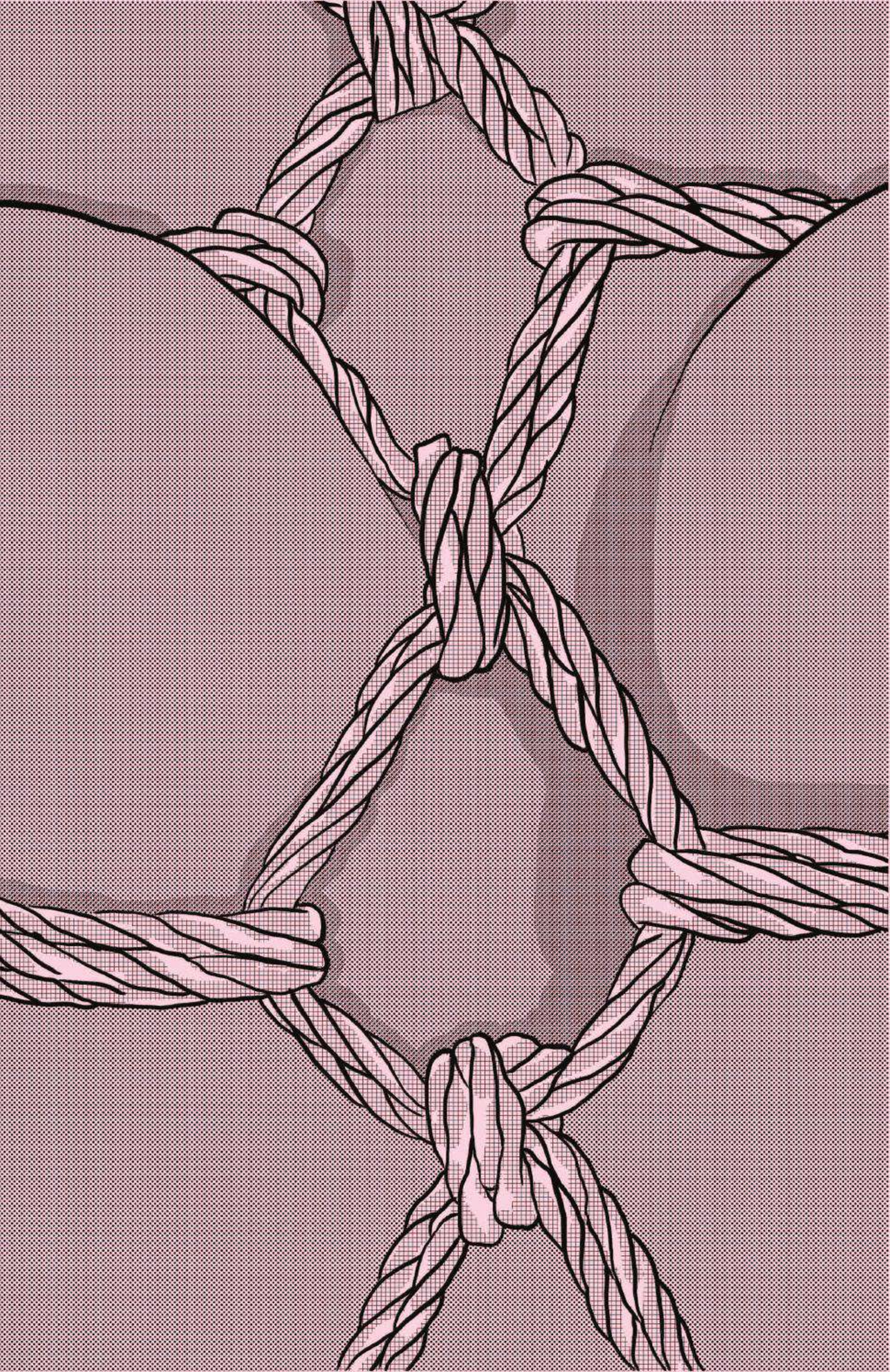
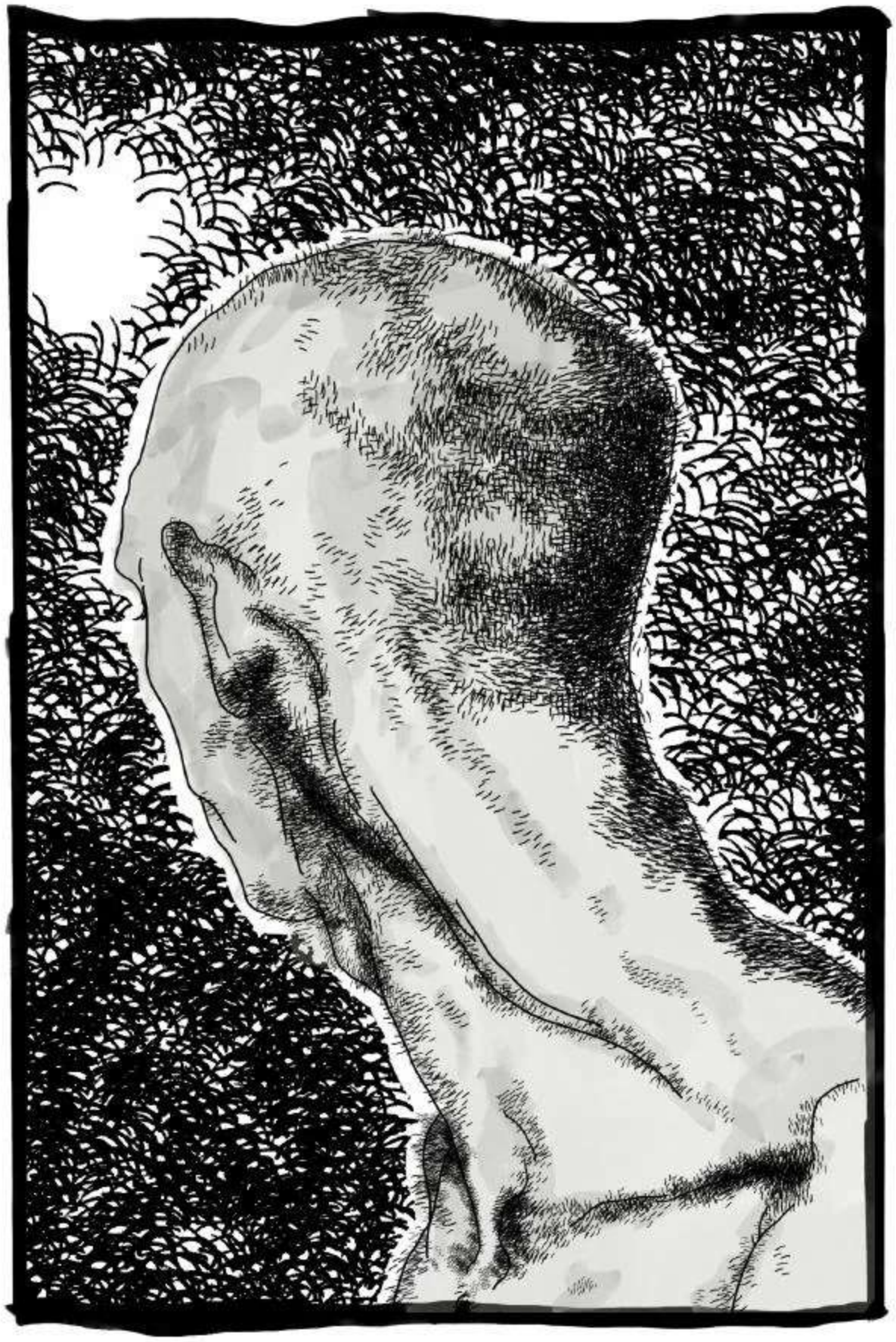
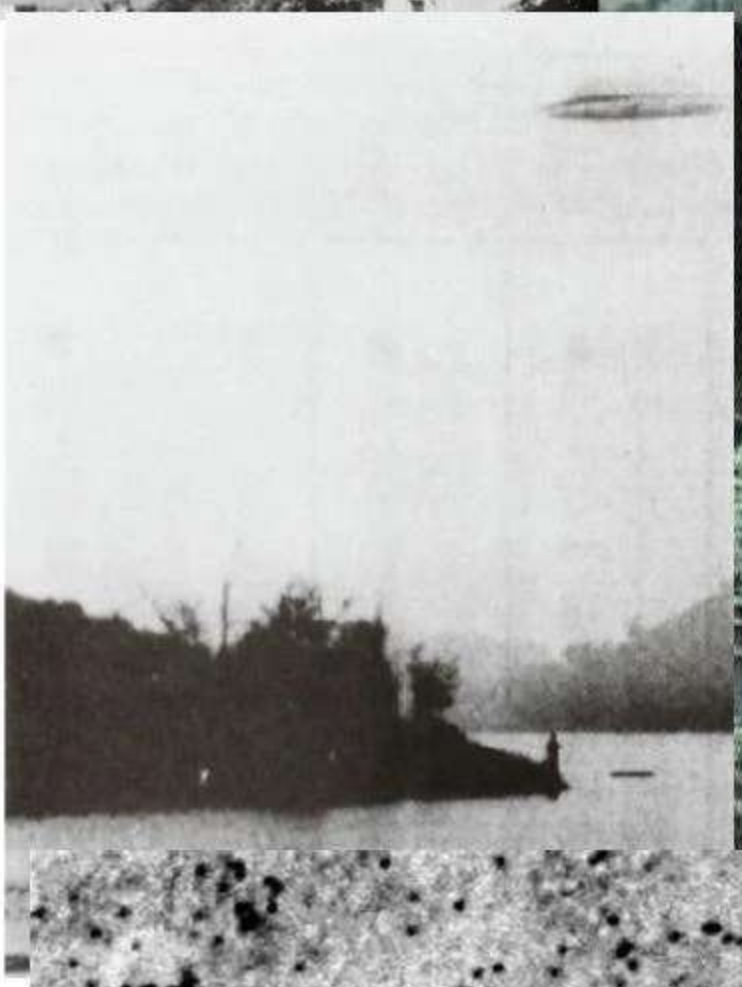


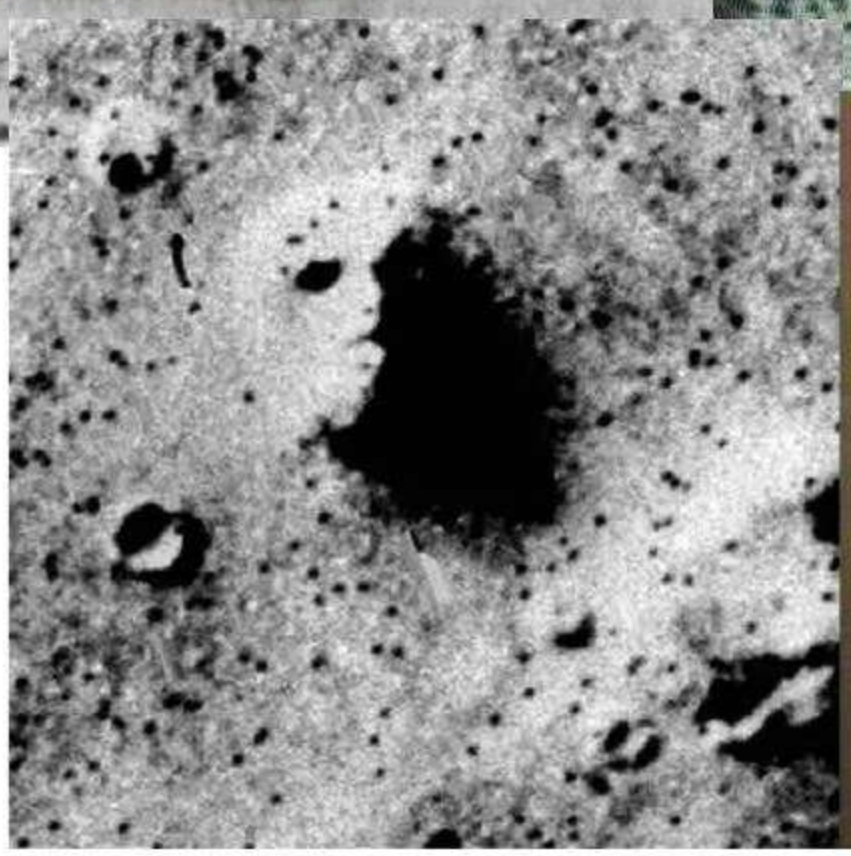


CONTRI
BUTORS

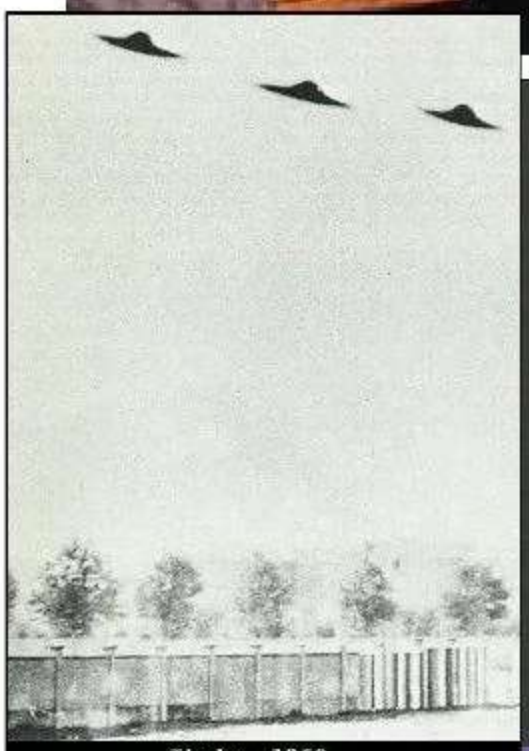
eric
eepsy
andre
rachael

BELIEVE





Oberwesel, Germany, 1965



Italy, 1960

GRASS SKIRT GIRLS

interview by Eric A.

24-year-old North Shore native Hillz Kaahanui had a vision. The drive to create conceptually and execute was always second nature to her. Though it was her hard work and motivation that helped start her Grass Skirt Girls brand. In addition to a steadfast following, Grass Skirt Girls has also sparked a buzz on social media. Combining East and West coast flare with an Island twist, Grass Skirt Girls breaks the Hawaiian living in grass shack stereotype. Kaahanui's brand isn't only a statement on fashion but a lifestyle that diversifies island living with cosmopolitan flare.

model Photo Credits to: Winzel McFly

[E] What is a Grass Skirt Girl?

[H] A Grass Skirt Girl is a symbolization of myself. Any typical girl. At least one from the countryside. You know, you grow up. You go outside. You play outside. You run around. You take hula lessons for a couple of years, which I did. You get over that. You do sports. It's your typical island girl.

[E] Where are your island roots?

[H] I was born and raised on the North Shore of Oahu. I come from La'ie. So pretty much throughout my childhood, I grew up going to the beach.I taught myself how to surf at my home break. Jumping off La'ie Point. Hiking. Just being around nature. Growing up wasn't really fashioned around that side of the island. It was either board shorts / tank tops or basketball shorts and plain tees. Moving to Honolulu and going to Honolulu Community College got me involved with the fashion and music scene. I took my country style and the city life and put it into one, which is Grass Skirt Girls.

[E] What set the fire for you to start Grass Skirt Girls?

[H] Growing up, in school, I wasn't really interested in the other subjects. I wasn't really good at any of them, too, but I always loved drawing. I always loved creating. I'd rather draw something, like a flower, or whatever I see. Whatever came into my mind, it was like, oh, maybe I can draw this! So I'd draw it.

[E] So being a dreamer helped inspire you?

[H] Yea. I was out there. I was really out there. [laughter] The idea for Grass Skirt Girls sparked when I was at Honolulu Community College. The idea to start my own brand was always there. It wasn't until I left the college that I decided to pursue it fully.

[E] If you could categorize yourself (as graphic artist, fashion designer, etc), what would it be? Or is diversity key?

[H] I want to be all around. I want to be 100% me. If I ever become successful and my line comes up, it's obviously not going to be all me. Like for mass production, etc. For right now, I'm just putting all of my hard work into it. It feels good when I see a tag or a post of someone wearing my stuff, shouting me out on social media. It's like, oh my god! I fucking remember printing that shit! It's pretty cool.

[E] As for as merchandizing, do you print locally?

[H] All of my shirts are done locally. My brother is actually a screen printer and so that's how I got into screen-printing. So right now I'm learning how to screen print. It's a long process but I like doing it. It's my passion. Whenever I have a day off from work, I'm at the North Shore, learning how to screen print.

[E] So your brother has full screen-printing workstation set up?

[H] Yeah. Every time I go up there, I learn something new. From filming, burning images onto a screen, reclaiming the screen and all that kind of stuff.

[E] Which industry designer inspires you the most?

[H] If I had to choose one, it would be the owner of Married To The Mob, Leah McSweeney. She started a brand from nothing and now she is one of the top women designers out there. Plus she is a badass and doesn't give a shit what people think.

[E] Aside from your original Grass Skirt Girls motif, you also sport the “Hapas Are Hawt” slogan. How did that design come about? Are hapas really hawt?

[H] Yes, they are! [laughter]. I think you can agree with me on that. The design part of the shirt is based off east and west coast women’s fashion. Coming from the pacific, I wanted to put my own spin on it. Unless you’re from here, no one really knows what a *hapa is.

*From Urban Dictionary ha•pa (hä’pä) adj. 1. Slang. of mixed racial heritage with partial roots in Asian and/or Pacific Islander ancestry. n. 2. Slang. a person of such ancestry. {der./Hawaiian: hapa haole. (half white)}

[E] Has social media helped greatly in creating a buzz / following for your brand?

[H] Yes, it has. It’s been building. Honestly, it’s just networking, motivation and desire. Just getting up and fucking doing it!

[E] Aside from total world domination, in the future, where would you like Grass Skirt Girls?

[H] I see my brand being versatile. There’s really no women’s based “lifestyle brand”. I don’t want to put Grass Skirt Girls into a specific category like surf or street wear. Though it is something you can wear to the beach, you know? Or out on the town. Like country meet urban meets everything else. Most of the brands here are made for men. Male based. Guys are creating a brand and throwing it on a girl and saying it’s women’s wear. All my focus, my inspiration, everything that comes to me, is something that both myself and other girls would wear too.

[E] What type of advice would you give to up and coming artists and designers?

[H] I would say keep going. Keep doing it. Keep pushing yourself. There were days where I feel frustrated thinking no one likes my stuff and not getting the feedback. You just have to keep going. Got to stay motivated. Grass Skirt Girls has kept me motivated for the past half year. I look back and while I wouldn’t consider myself anything, I’m something. More than I was then. That’s more than enough motivation for me.

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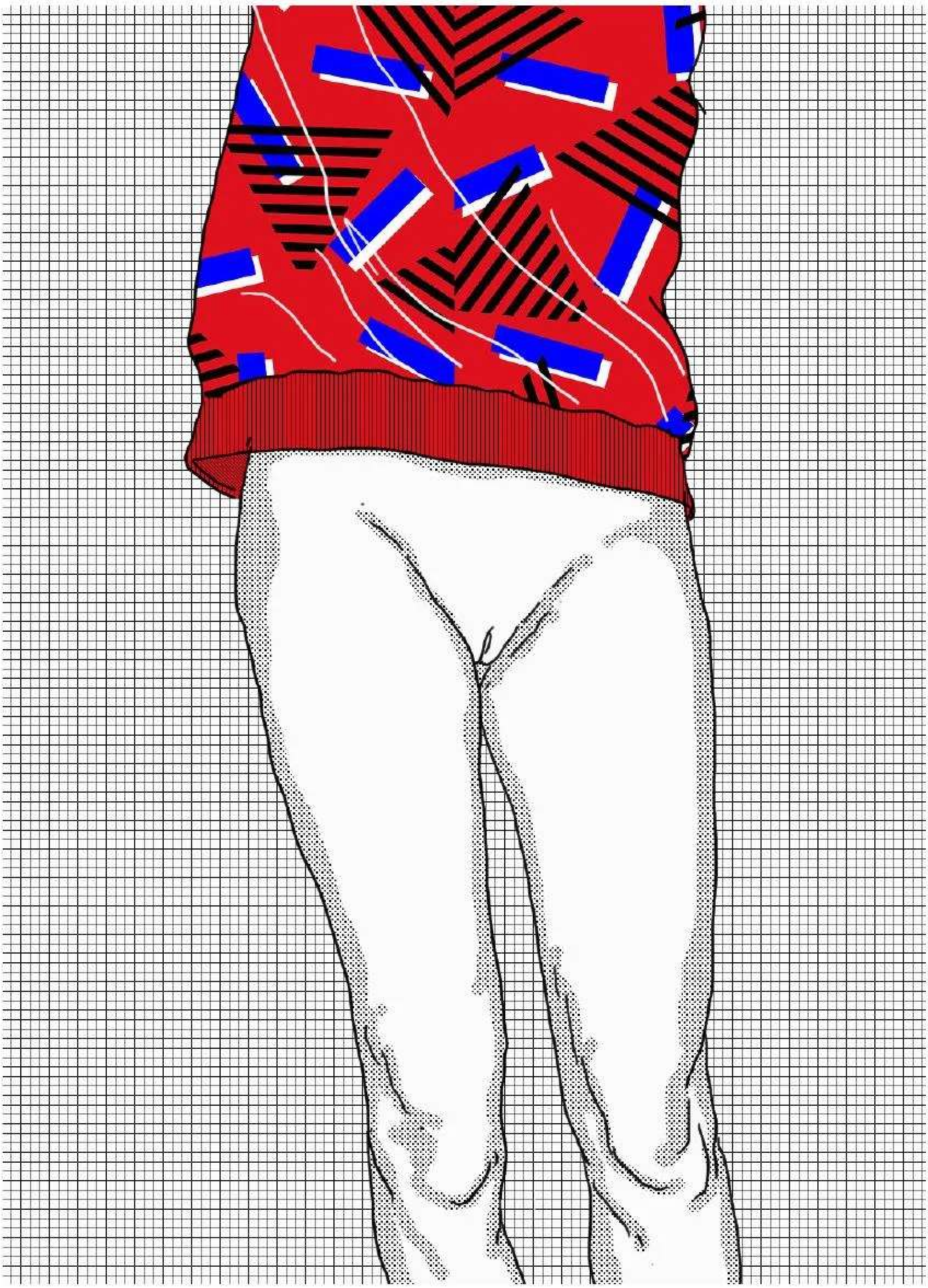
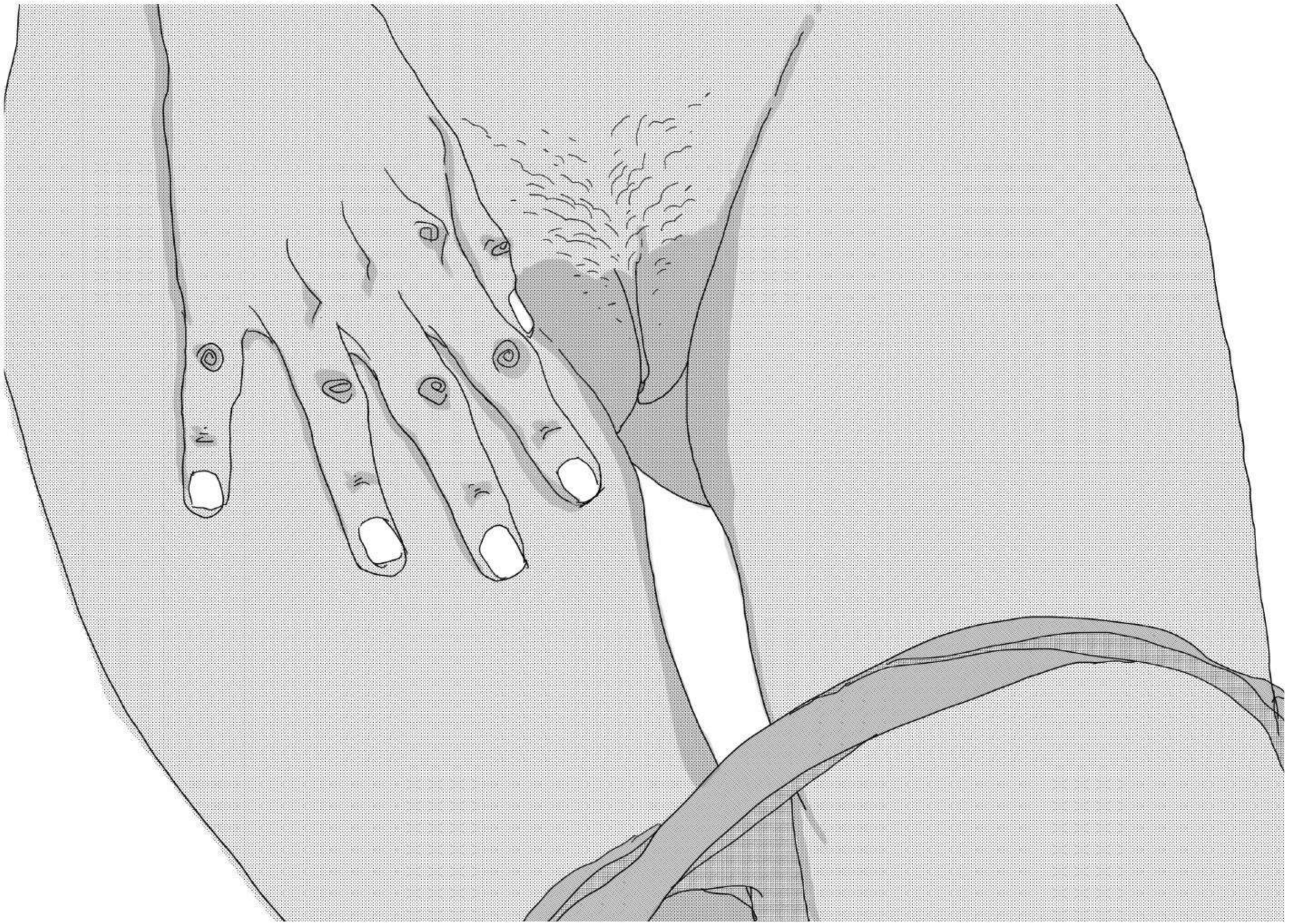


you grabbed my hand and we fell into it, like a daydream or a fever

we woke up one morning and fell a little further down -
for sure it's the valley of death

i open up my wallet
and it's full of blood

things are just gonna get worse and keep on getting worse. like i said, america's a third world country as it is and...and we're just basically in a hopeless situation as it stands.

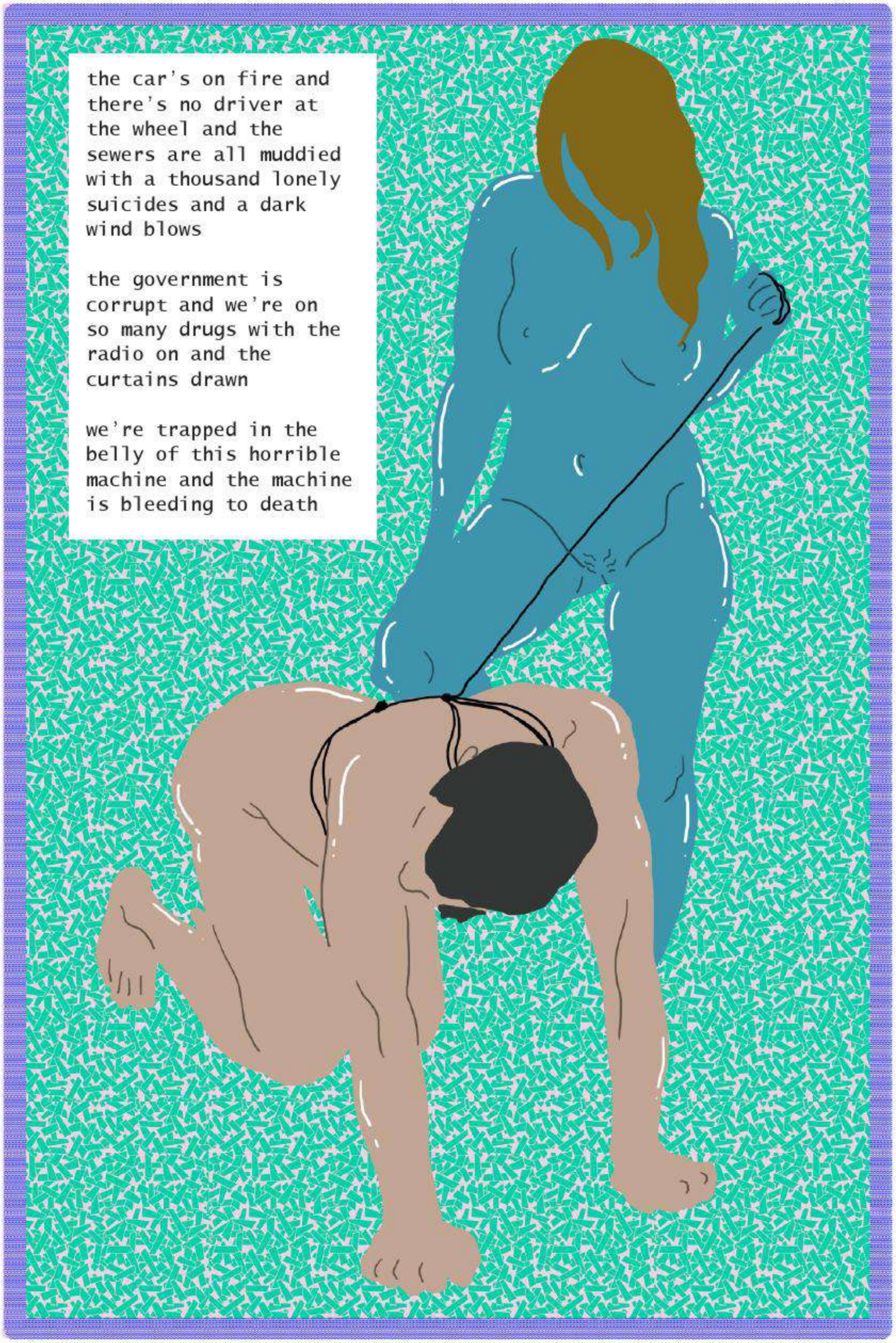


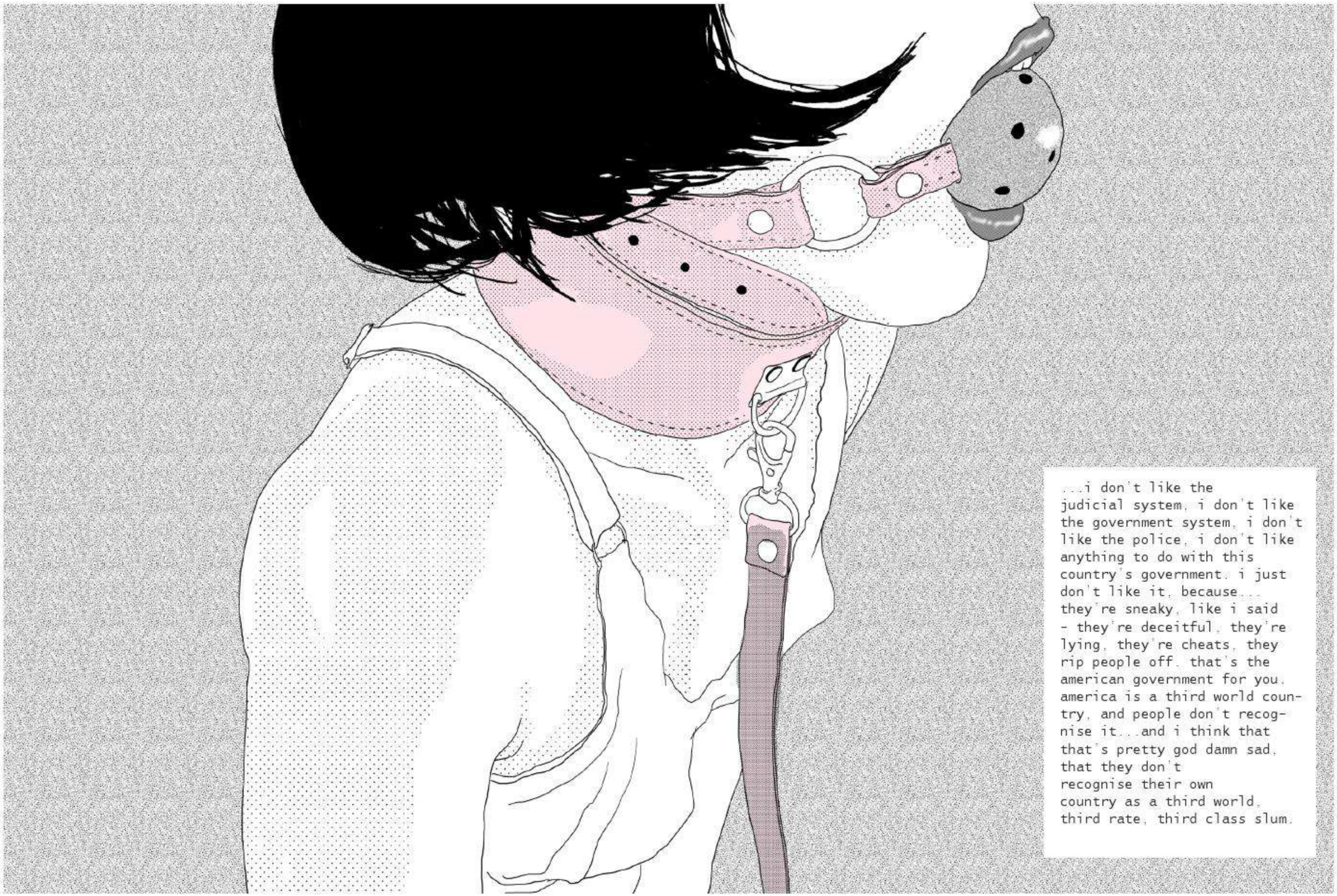
there is a devil in this world
and no angel will save us
they're turning our neighbourhoods into disneylands
they're building more prisons and doubling their patrols
all dreams fall down

the car's on fire and
there's no driver at
the wheel and the
sewers are all muddied
with a thousand lonely
suicides and a dark
wind blows

the government is
corrupt and we're on
so many drugs with the
radio on and the
curtains drawn

we're trapped in the
belly of this horrible
machine and the machine
is bleeding to death





...i don't like the judicial system, i don't like the government system, i don't like the police, i don't like anything to do with this country's government. i just don't like it, because... they're sneaky, like i said - they're deceitful, they're lying, they're cheats, they rip people off. that's the american government for you. america is a third world country, and people don't recognise it...and i think that that's pretty god damn sad, that they don't recognise their own country as a third world, third rate, third class slum.

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG

6

PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

be prepared for anything at any time from anybody, don't
take no shit, always stand your ground. people wanna come
up to me and run their mouth - guess what? i'll throw them
through the fucking window...

MUSIC REVIEWS

hawaii94
nightvision [ep]

i've been listening to hawaii94 since i started listening to chillwave bands. on par with washed out, but with a little more talent. i've never not been in the mood to hear any of his records. if you've just blazed and need to chill, flip this shit on and meditate.

-andre

miami horror
all possible futures [lp]

i thought i was listening to something else for a really long time. i had to double check to make sure it was still miami horror and not someone else. a bit disappointed with this release. not sure i'm into this new vibe, maybe i'm just stuck in the past. i get really depressed when someone starts out with such a different vibe but changes direction later on. there are a few stand out tracks but to be honest they are all
prety bland. like if he were trying his damn hardest to get on the radio or have a pop star sing one of his tracks. i'll stick with his bravado ep/ early singles. see ya around bro, actually .... probably not.

-andre

retro promenade
the next peak v2 [lp]

the intro to the twin peaks theme starts to play, but something's different. it's all synthy and wavey. you're now crusing down the highway doing 85 in your new lambo and nothing's going to stop you from reaching the future. only one stop on the way to your future. and where is that place? why one eyed jacks of course. everything about these compilations is right. do yourself a favor, enjoy some of that delicious hot coffee and a few donuts before heading back out. put the pedal to the metal and never look back.

-andre

tora
eat the sun [ep]

tora sound like the weeknd x james blake. which isn't bad at all. at times they sound pretty damn good. i say "they" because i don't know shit about this band aside from the fact that i found them following the chillwave tag on bandcamp. which is 100% incorrect. this is not chillwave at all.

-andre

the twelves
algernon [single]

This track fits nicely onto Kitsune's 2015 American collection, although The Twelves hail from beautiful Brazil. Check this out for some balearic nu-disco that wouldn't be out of place from a beach vista to a busy loft party.

-adhdj

the hollow spheres
wanderlust [ep]

Steely Dan-like solos and urban jazz, mixed in with dreamy guitars, melodic vocals - all held together with a solid rhythm section make their current sound. While an all-around great album, my favorite tracks on here are the jazzy "Cold As Ice" and power ballad "Hold Me Close And Keep Me Far Away", which features an impressive bass solo by Kato. The latter track brings me back to the THS "Studio Sessions" on YouTube from 2011. Back then, on my break, I used to sit at the American Savings Bank Tower courtyard drinking stupidly expensive coffee, watching the smartphone video on repeat. True story.

-eric

Have Faith

I found myself sitting in traffic with chicken skin falling backwards through time. This happens often when I hear songs I loved from another decade. For me it is the strongest sensory experience that can change my mood. Quickly changing me from a responsible adult into to a carefree punk teenager dancing and singing at the top of my lungs.

I have seen it happen in many others I know as well. If you happen to be at a concert and the band plays that one song that makes the crowd sing along with such emotion. Music is a powerful memory cue for many people. For me it brings to mind mixtapes made for friends and crushes. Songs played in the car on the way to the beach with my sister. The nostalgia is so clear that you can remember clothing, food, feelings, smells, settings that surrounded those events.

It's a neurological occurance or whatever. The cognitive neuroscience of music! This has to do with the premotor cortex, synchronizing your neurons to the music and parietal cortex shifting your attention to the lyrics. Music is so powerful that when listening to your favorite mix your brain releases dopamine and creates a powerful feeling of connection to a song that you will love and remember forever.

So keep collecting mixtapes and cd's without abandon. Feel those feels which are fleeting. Hold dear those moments which connect you to times and places of long lost. In your repertoire of beloved songs holds the story of your past, a sort of oral history for the future.

xO Eepsy

Titties

Come for the Titties, Stay for the Articles

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